

Dear Lower School and 6th Grade Families,

I am delighted to share that the overall vaccination rate of eligible Episcopal Collegiate students ages 5-11 is currently 84%! All grade levels Kindergarten through 6th grade reflect rates 77% or greater, with some exceeding 90%. Given this posture and the current level of active cases and rate of spread in the region, we feel that it is safe and appropriate to begin phasing in measured modifications to our protocols effective Monday, December 13. Please note that we are not making adjustments to our mask protocols at this time. We will revisit our masking policies after the holiday break. We will continue to closely monitor the health of our community, the active case levels and rates of spread in our greater region, and the potential impact of new variants. We are grateful for your continued partnership and support and ask that you continue to report vaccination and health status through the reporting forms posted on the [Community Health](#) page of our website.

Very Respectfully,
Dr. Jamie Griffin

Adjustments to Lower School Protocols

Early Morning Drop-Off

Early morning drop off now begins at 7:15am. Regular drop off time continues from 7:30-8am. Students walk directly to their classrooms beginning at 7:40am.

- **2nd-5th South End (by the gym)** - Drop off begins at 7:15am and students will walk themselves in as they have in the past. Mrs. Thomas will be in the gym supervising students in grades 2-5 and masks will be worn.
- **PK-1st North End (by the office)** - Drop off begins at 7:15am at the same drop off location as before. There will be a teacher helping students out of their cars. PreK will gather in the PK room, and K-1st will gather in the library.

PE Classes

PE Classes will blend indoors, rather than cohorting as a homeroom, *while still wearing masks*.

Lunch

Lunch will resume in the cafeteria for students in Kinder - 5th. Students will wear masks while

traveling to get their food and returning to the table. PreK students will continue eating lunch in their classrooms. *Parents are not allowed to join their children for lunch in the cafeteria at this point.*

Wildcat Club

Students will continue to group as a grade level. We are planning to offer blended grade-level groups in both Super Sessions and Wildcat Club when we return January 4.

Afternoon Carpool

Second and third graders will use the cafeteria as their holding station. Fourth and fifth graders will use the gym as their holding station. They will continue exiting as they have from south doors.

No changes to PreK - 1st pickup protocols or holding stations at this time.

Chapel

We will begin having three grade levels in chapel the week of December 13.

Pride Patrol

Fourth and fifth-grade students interested in participating in Pride Patrol will begin when we return the week of January 4. Students will be provided more information about this opportunity next week.

Adjustments to 6th Grade Protocols

Class Transitions

Where applicable, sixth grade students may travel to teacher classrooms on the second floor of the middle school, as well as anywhere in the high school.

Spacing

Where applicable, sixth graders will be permitted to play/interact with students in other grades in the classrooms, Chapel, and hallways, as well as in the quad.

Lunch

Where applicable, sixth grade students may share the dining hall with students from other grade levels.

Classrooms

Plexiglass dividers will be removed for the second semester.

Clubs

Where applicable, sixth grade students may participate in second semester clubs with seventh and eighth graders.